

## CLAIMS

1. A connecting device comprising:

a sheet-shaped member having flexibility on which two housing portions are fixed at a predetermined gap; and

5 a bendable member which has enough restoring force and rigidity to restore a bent state to an unbent state and is attached to the sheet-shaped member so as to be laid across the two housing portions.

10 2. The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein the bendable member is a thin plate having an arc shape in sectional view.

15 3. The connecting device according to claim 2, wherein the bendable member is attached to the two housing portions, with a concave portion thereof oriented in a direction where the two housing portions are folded.

20 4. The connecting device according to any one of claims 1 to 3,

wherein the sheet-shaped member has a folding force generating means for generating folding force to hold the folded state of the housing portions at a substantially central region thereof corresponding to the gap between the  
25 two housing portions.

5. The connecting device according to any one of

claims 1 to 4,

wherein the sheet-shaped member includes a stopper that is bent to temporarily hold the folded state of the two housing portions.

5

6. A small electronic apparatus comprising:

two housing portions; and

the connecting device according to any one of claims 1 to 5 that foldably connects the two housing portions.

10

7. The small electronic apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising;

a display unit that is provided in one of the two housing portions; and

15

an operating unit that is provided in the other housing portion,

wherein, when the two housing portions are in a folded state, the display unit and the operating unit are arranged opposite to each other.

20

8. A folding portable terminal apparatus comprising:

a connecting member that has flexibility and connects two housing portions with a predetermined gap interposed therebetween;

25

a bendable member which has enough restoring force and rigidity to restore a bent state to an unbent state and is attached so as to be laid across the two housing portions;

and

a flexible wiring member which electrically connects  
the two housing portions,

wherein the bendable member and the flexible wiring  
5 member overlap each other at the position of the connecting  
member.

9. The folding portable terminal apparatus according  
to claim 8,

10 wherein the bendable member has a curved portion  
having a concave shape in sectional view.

10. The folding portable terminal apparatus according  
to claim 9,

15 wherein the flexible wiring member is arranged on the  
concave side of the curved portion.

11. The folding portable terminal apparatus according  
to claim 9,

20 wherein the flexible wiring member is arranged on the  
convex side of the curved portion.

12. A folding portable terminal apparatus comprising:

a connecting member that has flexibility and connects  
25 two housing portions with a predetermined gap interposed  
therebetween;

a permanent magnet which is provided at one end of one

of the two housing portions facing the other housing portion; and

a Hall element which detects the magnetic field of the permanent magnet and is provided at one end of the other housing portion facing the one housing portion so as to opposite to the permanent magnet when the two housing portions are positioned to face each other.

13. A folding portable terminal apparatus comprising:

a fashion cover that covers outer surfaces of two housing portions and a connecting portion for foldably connecting two housing portions and is freely replaceable,

wherein screw receiving portions are provided so as to protrude from the inner surface of a portion of the fashion cover covering one of the two housing portions,

a plurality of engaging claws are arranged on the inner surface of the other portion of the fashion cover covering the other housing portion of the two housing portions such that leading ends thereof face in the opposite direction of the one housing portion,

grappling claws engaged with the engaging claws are provided on the other housing portion so as to correspond to the engaging claws, and

after the screw receiving portions are screwed to the one housing portion, the fashion cover is relatively extended to the other housing portion to engage the engaging claws with the grappling claws, thereby mounting

the fashion cover.

14. A folding portable terminal apparatus comprising:  
a fashion cover that covers outer surfaces of two  
5 housing portions and a connecting portion for foldably  
connecting two housing portions and is freely replaceable,  
wherein the fashion cover includes:

a base member which has a size larger than the two  
housing portions connected to each other by the connecting  
10 portion; and

an integument which covers at least an outer surface  
of the base member,

the base member has an edge winding portion that  
protrudes from the edge of the two housing portions to the  
5 outside, and

the edge winding portion is deformable so as to be  
inclined toward the two housing portions.

15. A folding portable terminal apparatus comprising:  
20 a fashion cover that covers outer surfaces of two  
housing portions and a connecting portion for foldably  
connecting two housing portions and is freely replaceable,  
wherein the fashion cover includes:

a belt member which is provided at one end of an outer  
25 surface of the fashion cover;

a first metal member which is provided at a leading  
end of the belt member;

a second metal member which is provided at the other end of the outer surface of the fashion cover and engages with the first metal member; and

5 a permanent magnet which is provided on at least one of the first and second metal members to magnetically couple the first and second metal members, and

the first metal member and the second metal member respectively have concave and convex portions engaged with each other.

10

16. A folding portable terminal apparatus comprising:

a connecting member which has flexibility and connects two housing portions with a predetermined gap interposed therebetween;

15

a bendable member which has enough restoring force and rigidity to restore a bent state to an unbent state and is attached so as to be laid across the two housing portions; and

20 a base member which has an integument on a surface thereof,

wherein the base member is mounted to the two housing portions, with a rear surface thereof separated from the connecting member.